

REMARKS

I. Amendments

By this amendment, withdrawn claims 2-4, 10, 18-34 and 36-42 have been canceled.

This amendment adds no new matter to the specification. Support for this amendment is found in the specification and claims as filed.

No change of inventorship is necessitated by this amendment.

II. Discussion of the Allowed Claims

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's statement of the allowability of claims 1, 5-9, 11-14 and 35.

III. Discussion of the Objection to the Abstract

The Examiner has objected to the content of the Abstract. A substitute Abstract, on separate sheets of paper, appears as pages 2 and 3 of this response.

Therefore Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract.

IV. Discussion of the Rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) over Iwasaki *et al.*

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Iwasaki *et al.* (Helv. Chim. Acta, 1976). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

A Declaration including experimental evidence to support the non-obviousness of the subject matter of claim 17 over the cited reference accompanies this response.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's consideration of the Kusaka Declaration.

Therefore Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) over Iwasaki *et al.*

**V. Discussion of the Rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(a) over
Tasaka *et al.***

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(a) as allegedly anticipated by Tasaka *et al.* (WO99/54309). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, as the cited reference is not proper art.

The cited reference has a publication date of October 28, 1999. However, the present invention has a priority date of June 22, 1999 by virtue of the filing of the parent Japanese application number 175070. The Filing Receipt, which the Examiner may have relied upon when making this rejection, is incorrect with respect to the filing date of the parent Japanese application. Applicant asserts that the cited reference is not proper art.

Therefore Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(a) over Tasaka *et al.*

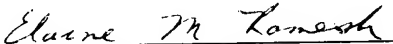
VI. Conclusion

Reconsideration of the claims as amended and allowance is requested. Should the Examiner believe that a conference with Applicant's attorney would advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney at (847) 383-3391.

Respectfully submitted,

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(847) 383-3391
(847) 383-3372


Elaine M. Ramesh, Ph.D., Reg. No. 43,032
Mark Chao, Ph.D., Reg. No. 37,293
Attorney for Applicants
Customer No. 23,115

Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc.
Intellectual Property Department
Suite 500, 475 Half Day Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069 USA